

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 6 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Lofdahl at the telephone interview held October 30, 2003, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the telephone interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-5.

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Gieselman (U.S. Patent No. 4,654,996). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

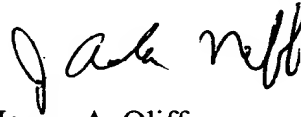
As agreed during the telephone communication, Gieselman does not disclose or suggest a method of gripping a fishing rod which comprises *inter alia* a trigger and a fixed rear hood wherein a tip portion of an area of the front surface of the trigger on which a user's fingers can be placed is positioned behind a portion immediately below the highest position of an opening portion of the fixed rear hood, the method comprising the step of placing at least two fingers on the front surface of the trigger, as recited in independent claim 6. Accordingly, as agreed during the interview, independent claim 6 defines over Gieselman. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

Also, claim 5, though allowed, is amended as requested by the Examiner to make explicit what was already implicit, i.e., that the fixed rear hood attaches a reel foot to the reel foot placing surface.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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